

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BOB MORGAN (USAF) RETIRED

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an honorary New Yorker, Colonel Bob Morgan (USAF) Ret.

Colonel Morgan was part of the heroic and courageous crew aboard the Memphis Belle during World War II. During that time the Memphis Belle flew 25 consecutive successful missions while helping the allies to defeat Nazi Germany.

In a ceremony at the American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport in New York, Colonel Morgan honored many supporters by describing them as "Americans who have preserved and protected our nation's past so that we may better protect our future." It is thanks to the dedication and service of men and women such as Colonel Morgan that we have such a bright future to protect.

I am honored to have gotten to spend time with Colonel Morgan and thank him again for his service, dedication and patriotism to the nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that his remarks at the July 3, 2003 ceremony be inserted into the RECORD at this point.

Congressman Steve Israel, Mr. Hugh Jones, Mr. Edward Blumenfeld, Supervisor Bellone—distinguished guests and fellow veterans—it is a tremendous honor to be here this morning at the American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport.

I have not been in New York since September 11th, 2001. But truth be told, I don't find its spirit to be much different than when I was here back in the late 1990's. You still have the guts, the grit and the determination of what I remember. You continue to be that tough competitor on the outside with the heart of gold on the inside.

That character was on display that morning of September 11th as men and women made life and death decisions with courage and bravery that will be recorded in the annals of American history for all time.

Some 22 months ago many in this audience found themselves on the front line of this nation's fight against tyranny and terrorism. Civilians and uniformed services found themselves together—under fire and confronting an enemy we had never known before. And yet because we were attacked as Americans we responded the same way—as Americans.

I am proud that you think me worthy of being called an honorary New Yorker. Congressman Israel, I will wear that label proudly as it shows solidarity with each and every one of you. It reminds all of us that the fight to preserve and protect our country is never without sacrifice.

Some sixty years ago I served with men who understood that stark reality. To protect our freedom we need to put ourselves in harms way. In a plane much like the B-17 Flying Fortress sitting beside the museum, we set out 25 times to defy the Nazi Luftwaffe. We knew that if we didn't put bombs on target the people of Europe would remain slaves forever and the people of

America would always live in fear. We never wanted to be heroes but we understood the stakes.

Today is no different. The stakes are high. The risks are great. But we are a nation that will do what it takes to defend itself and preserve liberty. These aircraft at the American Airpower Museum are part of that legacy. The outstanding work that Congressman Israel does in Washington is part of that legacy. And the support we get from people like Hugh Jones of Republic Airport, Ed Blumenfeld of BDG, Faith Weiner of Stop & Shop and Bill Mullaney of Hampton Inn keep that heritage alive and well.

Accordingly, I would like to make those individuals honorary members of the Memphis Belle—Americans who have preserved and protected our nation's past so that we may better protect our future. Wear your new membership proudly—you are now part of our American heritage.

Thank you all and God Bless America.

HONORING KEN BROWN, "MR. VETERAN"

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotism and dedication of Ken Brown, or as he is known in Southern Nevada, "Mr. Veteran."

Mr. Brown honorably served in the United States Navy during World War II. After receiving his honorable discharge from the Armed Services, Mr. Brown dedicated himself to improving the quality of life for the military veterans of Nevada and our great nation.

Mr. Brown was the driving force behind the creation of the Veteran's Cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada. Using his own personal savings, Mr. Brown purchased 83.5 acres of land in Boulder City to be used as a veterans' cemetery site. On Friday, April 6, 1990 Mr. Brown's dream was realized and the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery was officially dedicated. In honor of his contributions, Friday, April 6, 1990 was proclaimed "Ken Brown Day" by the Governor of Nevada.

Mr. Brown has received numerous honors paying tribute to his fifty years of service to veterans and their families including the God & Country Award from the United States Navy Armed Guard and the key to the City of Las Vegas for heroism and vision in supporting veterans in Nevada.

I am honored to join with all Nevadans in honoring Ken Brown on his many accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO PATRICK J. MELLODY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, this country has lost a great citizen. I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional constituent of mine and the life he led by example. Nearly a year ago my very good friend, Attorney Patrick J. Melody, passed away on August 29, 2002. He is deeply missed by his family and the entire community of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

A native of Scranton, he served his nation in the U.S. Army as a 1st Lieutenant. He married the former Patricia Lynch and raised five children: Patrick, Kathleen, Mara, Stephen, and Meredith.

An outstanding attorney, Pat often represented injured workers before me when I was an Administrative Law Judge for the state's worker's compensation fund. I quickly came to appreciate not only his excellent legal skills, but also his compassion. It was this natural empathy and desire to help others that drove Pat. He served as a trusted advisor and counselor to each of his clients.

The son of a Lackawanna county commissioner, Pat learned the importance of public service at an early age. He served as a hearing examiner for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board for over sixteen years. He was also active in numerous community organizations, from the Boy Scouts of America to the American Heart Association, but it was his dedicated service to the Democratic Party for which he will be best remembered.

Never a candidate himself, Pat tirelessly supported Democratic candidates and developed the Lackawanna County Democratic Party into a source of strength and significance in local, state, and national elections.

Pat served as chairman of the Lackawanna County Democratic Committee from 1984 to 2002, the longest any individual has held the position. In 1989, a local political columnist wrote about Pat's great character, which showed through when he appeared on a local radio station's political show with his Republican counterpart. "The listeners were struck by the civility and friendliness that dominated the program. Hey, the listeners reasoned, Democrats and Republicans can get along together, particularly if they're high-class gents. Listeners got a lesson in modern day political science—it is not necessary to downgrade the opponent. You can be nice to him, and vice versa."

An article in the Scranton Times on September 7, 2002 Melody was the glue keeping party together, Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Leader Robert T. Mellow, a great friend of Pat's for forty years was quoted as saying, "He brought to the party very great leadership, absolutely no selfishness, no agenda." "He was a very open individual with no personal agenda except to make sure the Democratic Party . . . would be successful."

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